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GROUP 1600 THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Lustig et al.

Group Art Unit: 1646

Serial No. 09/163,713

Examiner: Michael D. Pak

Filed: September 30, 1998

Attorney Docket No. T97-012-1

For: Nuclear Hormone Receptor Drug Screens

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by fax to the Assist Comm for Patents at (703) 308-4242 on February 15, 2000

Signed

Richard Osman

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Commissioner:

Please enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An in vitro assay method for modulators of a nuclear hormone receptor function, comprising steps:

forming an in vitro mixture comprising a first nuclear hormone receptor, a peptide sensor and a candidate agent, but not a natural coactivator protein of the first receptor, wherein the sensor provides direct, agonist-dependent assay detectable binding to the first receptor under assay conditions and comprises ^{from 5 to 24} 24 or fewer amino acids.

measuring an agent-biased binding of the sensor to the first receptor;

comparing the agent-biased binding with a corresponding unbiased binding of the sensor to the first receptor;

wherein a difference between the biased and unbiased bindings indicates that the agent modulates a function of the first receptor.

2. (Unamended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first receptor comprises the ligand binding domain of PPAR γ , Cyp7PBP(LRH-1), NURR1, RZR β , ROR α , NOR-1, Rev-ErbA β , Tlx, NGFI-B β , HZF-2 α , COUP-TF α , β , γ , Nur77, LXR α , COR, Rev-ErbA α , HNF4 α , TOR, MB67 α , SHP, FXR, SF-1, LXR β , GCNF, TR2-11 α , β , TR4, ERR α , β and DAX-1